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APPLICATION

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FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

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SPECIFICATION

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TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, JOHN RUSSELL, a citizen of UNITED
25 STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful MAILBOX
ASSEMBLY of which the following is a specification:

MAILBOX ASSEMBLY

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to mailbox devices and more particularly pertains to a new mailbox device that allows a user of the mailbox to inspect the interior of the mailbox before removing any contents therein.

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Description of the Prior Art

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The use of mailbox devices is known in the prior art. While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a mailbox that allows a user of the mailbox to see the interior of the mailbox and such a device should also include the ability to manipulate the contents of the mailbox.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention meets the needs presented above by generally comprising a housing including a bottom wall, a first side wall, a second side wall, and a back wall. A front wall is hingedly coupled to the housing and defines a first door for selectively opening or closing the housing. A top wall is attached to the first and second side walls. The top wall is substantially transparent. A window is positioned in the first side wall and comprises a substantially transparent material. The window has a pair

of apertures extending therethrough. Each of a pair of gloves has a wrist portion and a hand portion. Each of the wrist portions is attached to and extending along a perimeter edge of one of the apertures such that each of the gloves extends into housing.

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There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a mailbox assembly according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic side elevational view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic rear cross-sectional view of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a schematic front elevational view of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a schematic perspective view of a base of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 5 thereof, a new mailbox device embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 5, the mailbox assembly 10 generally comprises a housing 12 that includes a bottom wall 14, a first side wall 16, a second side wall 18, and a back wall 20. A front wall 22 is hingedly coupled to the housing 12 and defines a first door for selectively opening or closing the housing 12. A top wall 24 is attached to the first 16 and second 18 side walls. The top wall 24 is substantially transparent and is preferably arched upwardly from the first 16 and second 18 side walls. A cover 26 is hingedly coupled to the housing 12 and is selectively positionable in a closed position covering the top wall 24.

A window 28 is positioned in the first side wall 16. The window 28 comprises a substantially transparent material and preferably comprises a plastic material. The window 28 has a pair of apertures 30 extending therethrough. Each of a pair of gloves 32 has a wrist portion 34 and a

hand portion 36. Each of the wrist portions 34 is attached to and extends along a perimeter edge of one of the apertures 30 such that each of the gloves 32 extends into housing 12. Preferably, each of the gloves 32 comprises an elastomeric material, though flexible plastic may also be
5 used.

A second door 38 is hingedly coupled to the housing 12. The second door 38 is selectively positionable in a closed position covering the window 28. A securing member 40 is attached to the second door 38 and
10 the cover 26 for selectively securing the second door 38 and the cover 26 in their respective closed positions.

A bracket 42 is attached to the bottom wall 14 for selectively attaching the housing 12 to a post 50. The bracket 42 preferably includes
15 a pair of legs 44 extending downwardly from the housing 12. The post 50 is positioned between the legs 44. The post 50 and legs 44 each have holes 46 extending therethrough which are alignable when the bracket 42 is position on the post 50. A rod 48 is extended through the aligned holes 46 for securing the bracket 42 to the post 50. A lock 52 may be positioned
20 on the rod 48 for locking the bracket 42 to the post 50.

Preferably, a handle 54 is attached to and extends upwardly from the cover 26. The handle 54 allows for the easy opening of the cover 26 and for carrying the housing 12 when it is removed from the post 50. The
25 assembly 10 also includes a rigid flag 56 pivotally coupled to the housing 12 for indicating outgoing mail.

In use, the assembly 10 is generally used as a conventional mailbox. When a user of the assembly retrieves their mail, the cover 26 is opened so
30 that user may see if there is mail within the housing 12 and to inspect for suspicious articles therein. If there are suspicious articles, the user may

use the gloves 32 to manipulate the contents of the housing 12 to better inspect the contents thereof.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that
5 the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be
10 encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to
15 limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.